

THE THOMPSON COUNTRY.

CHAPTER I.

ABORIGINAL TIMES.



THE Southern Interior of British Columbia is the home of several tribal subdivisions of Indians of Salish stock, further subdivided into bands, each band residing on some definite location or reserve. Of these tribal subdivisions the Shuswaps (Shoowha'pamoo), possess the largest territory which includes Shuswap and Adams Lakes, the valleys of the North and South Thompson rivers and the main Thompson nearly to Ashcroft, the Bonaparte river, Hat Creek, Clinton and the valley of the Fraser from Pavilion Creek to Soda Creek, their boundary being the territory of that other great branch, the Tinnah or Dene tribe. Along the Fraser river valley below Pavilion live the Lillooets (Sta'tlumoo), meeting the Thompsons near Foster's bar on the Fraser, the Thompsons (Ntla-ka-pe-moo) being the western neighbors of the Shuswap and occupying the Similkameen district (excepting Kere-meos which is Okanagan), the Nicola valley and that of the Fraser from Foster's Bar to Spuzzum. The Okan-